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**SUBMISSION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN REGARDING DEREGULATION, ADMINISTRATIVE
REFORM AND COMPETITION POLICY IN JAPAN**

Taking into account the Government of Japan's policy to consider the views of interested foreign and domestic parties, the Government of the United States on November 21 officially submitted to the Japanese Government a substantial and detailed paper addressing deregulation, administrative reform and competition policy issues. This 42-page submission, which contains suggestions for deregulation in 12 sectors, is intended to assist the Government of Japan in addressing those issues of greatest importance to the U.S. Government during the Government of Japan's Deregulation Action Plan revision process which is expected to be finalized by March 1996. The U.S. Government previously submitted proposals on these issues to the Government of Japan on November 15, 1994 and April 21, 1995.

In announcing the U.S. submission United States Trade Representative Kantor said, "We have put together a substantive submission which addresses a range of issues relating to deregulation, administrative reform and competition policy. This submission complements our efforts regarding sectoral trade issues and is a continuation of the Administration's trade policy regarding Japan as set forth under the Framework." Ambassador Kantor went on to say, "Meaningful deregulation of the Japanese economy is critical to increasing market access. However to be meaningful, deregulation must be coupled with a firm commitment to increased transparency of administrative procedures and enhanced competition policy enforcement. Meaningful deregulation will also ensure that the Japanese consumers and producers benefit from increased competition, lower prices, better selection and higher quality goods and services."

The U.S. - Japan Framework establishes a working group on deregulation and competition policy. This working group continues to serve as the primary bilateral forum for addressing these issues and the U.S. Government welcomes the opportunity for continued discussions with the Government of Japan within the Framework context.